



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/831,797	08/14/2001	Klaus Kwetkat	MULLER-26	9977

7590

01/08/2003

C James Bushman
Browning Bushman
Suite 1800
5718 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77057-5771

EXAMINER

DELCOTTO, GREGORY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1751

†

DATE MAILED: 01/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/831,797

Applicant(s)

KWETKAT ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory R. Del Cotto

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4-33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

Art Unit: 1751

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-33 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-33 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, claims 4-33 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabriel et al (US 5,922,663) or Gabriel et al (US 6,358,914).

Gabriel et al teach a detergent composition comprising a conventional surfactant, a gemini surfactant, and a polymeric soil release agent. The conventional surfactant comprises a hydrophilic group and a hydrophobic group. The gemini surfactant comprises two surfactant moieties attached to each other by a spacer moiety; each surfactant moiety having at least one hydrophilic group and at least one hydrophobic group. See Abstract. Suitable conventional surfactants include amphoteric surfactants

Art Unit: 1751

such as alkyl betaines, amidopropyl betaines, alkyl sultaines, etc., wherein the alkyl group represents an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms. See column 14, lines 45-69. Suitable Gemini surfactants include anionic, nonionic, cationic, or amphoteric surfactants. See column 16, lines 1-69. The total weight percentages of the conventional surfactants based on the total active weight of the compositions of the invention consisting of conventional surfactant, Gemini surfactants, soil release agents, and optionally detergency builder are about 10 to about 99.9 weight percent. The Gemini surfactants are present at a level of from about 0.02 to 15% by weight, and the polymeric soil release agents are employed at from about 0.05 to about 40% by weight. See column 25, lines 25-55. In these compositions, other ingredients may be present and include bleaches, enzymes, etc., in amounts from 0 to about 5 weight percent. When formulating a liquid composition, the liquid carrier is preferably selected from the group consisting of water and mixtures of the water and short chain C1-C4 monohydric alcohols. See column 26, lines 1-15.

Gabriel et al teach compositions comprising a conventional surfactant, a cationic or amphoteric Gemini surfactant and a polymeric soil release agent. The conventional surfactant comprises a hydrophilic group and a hydrophobic group. See Abstract. Suitable amphoteric surfactants include alkyl betaines and amido propyl betaines, wherein the alkyl represents an alkyl group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms. See column 13, line 55 to column 14, line 15. Additionally, the detergent compositions may include hydrotropes, enzymes, pH adjusting agents, etc. The total weight percentages of the conventional surfactants based on the total active weight of the compositions of

Art Unit: 1751

the invention consisting of conventional surfactant, Gemini surfactants, soil release agents, and optionally detergency builder are about 10 to about 99.9 weight percent. The Gemini surfactants are suitable present at a level of about 0.005 to 50% by weight. The liquid carrier is preferably selected from the group consisting of water and mixtures of the water and short chain C1-C4 monohydric alcohols. See column 25, line 40 to column 26, line 50.

Gabriel et al or '914 do not specifically teach a surfactant composition containing a Gemini surfactant, at least one additional detergent component with poor initial foaming characteristics, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to formulate a surfactant composition containing a Gemini surfactant, at least one additional detergent component with poor initial foaming characteristics, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success and similar results with respect to other disclosed components, because the broad teachings of Gabriel et al or '914 suggest a surfactant composition containing a Gemini surfactant, at least one additional detergent component with poor initial foaming characteristics, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 1751

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Remaining references cited but not relied upon are considered to be cumulative to or less pertinent than those relied upon or discussed above.

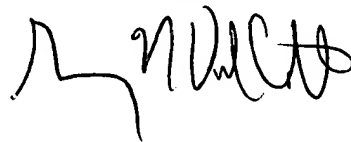
Applicant is reminded that any evidence to be presented in accordance with 37 CFR 1.131 or 1.132 should be submitted before final rejection in order to be considered timely.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (703) 308-2519. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (703) 308-4708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

GREGORY DELCOTTO
PRIMARY EXAMINER



GRD
January 7, 2003